

ADMISSION TO THE STUDENT BODY

The College has never had fixed regulations concerning the age or scholastic background of applicants for admission, since it has preferred to consider each individual case upon its merits. As a rule the prospective student presents college preparatory credits, five references, and a transcript of previous work. If grades are low, there must be some compensatory evidence. The Admissions Committee, which is composed of both faculty and students, looks for seriousness of purpose in the applicant. Experience shows that students who have arrived at a desire for self-directed work, as well as for a certain freedom of pace and sphere within which to study, are the people who benefit most from Black Mountain College. In the student body there are usually a number with specific aims who have transferred from other colleges. In the case of such transfers it is often found that Black Mountain College asks more of the student in terms of self-discipline and capacity for sustained work than his previous college experience did. Each applicant states why he wants to come to Black Mountain and what he expects to get from it. His desire to contribute to community life is always a consideration.

A faculty advisor is appointed for each entering student. After the first semester the student may choose his own advisor. A comprehensive examination is made available each year to those students who wish to find out how they stand in general knowledge and maturity, as evaluated by the faculty. At the time the student presents his plan of work toward graduation, he is given a detailed examination of his total preparation for the undertaking. Admission to candidacy for graduation is granted upon approval of the graduation plan if the student meets high standards of competence in academic work, initiative and responsibility in community work, and sensitivity in the arts.

GRADUATION

When a student has completed his plan of study, he asks to be examined for graduation. If the Faculty find the student's work satisfactory, they invite an outside examiner to the College. The examiner usually requires seven three-hour papers covering the student's field of study. These are followed by oral examinations. One of the papers concerned with a special problem may be presented in thesis form. In the arts, exhibitions or performances may take the place of some of these papers. Graduation is decided upon by the Faculty. The decision is based upon the report of the examiner and the student's entire record.

Black Mountain College confers no degree. The work demanded for graduation is equivalent to that required for a Bachelor of Arts degree at colleges and universities of long established standing. In the past, outside examiners have come from Duke University, Columbia, Bryn Mawr, University of North Carolina, Princeton, St. John's Col-